



June 13, 2011

The Office of Governor Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

The Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA) and the Minnesota State College Student Association (MSCSA) would like to formally express our support of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) System request to continue to access their existing funds in the event of a state government shutdown.

If the MnSCU system is unable to obtain these funds during a shutdown, the colleges and universities could be forced to shut down effective July 1. The two statewide student associations representing students across MnSCU are very concerned about the possible repercussions of a shutdown.

There are 67,000 students enrolled in summer classes at our state colleges and universities. If classes and support services are discontinued, students will be immediately and significantly impacted. They may have difficulty completing their degrees in a timely manner, delaying graduation and entry to the workforce.

Additionally, current and incoming students typically register for fall classes and apply for financial aid over the summer. If course registration and financial aid cannot be processed in a timely manner, it will be difficult for students attending our state colleges and universities to continue their education once operations resume.

We ask that MnSCU's request to access existing system funds be granted as soon as possible to assure students that campuses will continue to operate. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda Bardonner
MSUSA State Chair

Travis Johnson
MSCSA President